

From: pmckelvey
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: String'em Up

Yesterday, I read in USA TODAY, that a VP at Microsoft had said that LUNIX was the next target. Microsoft keeps their code secret, I guess security by obscurity. LUNIX is out there for anyone to work on and improve. Even the National Security Agency has published code examples as ways to make a "LUNIX" system more secure. I expect Bill Gates to include the "Universal Plug and Play" in LUNIX, thus opening it up to the hackers. But the code will be proprietary so no one will know.

Of great concern to me is the requirement that to do any kind of business with Microsoft, you have to have a Microsoft "passport". As I have read in the papers, Microsoft had to shut the passport system down for 24 hours because it had been hacked into.

With the "I Love you" virus following the rising sun around the earth and catching people before they were expecting anything is not surprising. If there is one direct progenitor of something that is everywhere, such a spread can and will occur. We need different operating systems. How bad can it get. The Irish potato famine was caused by a blight. All the potatoes in Ireland were descended from one potato plant of very good qualities. But when the blight hit, there were no natural barriers to stop the blight. According to the accounts of the times, people were actually dying in the streets as the blight did it's work on what was genetically one plant.

Potato Soup?

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P.S. Probably 20 years ago, AT&T's Bell Labs had a auto license plate created. White background with green lettering reading "UNIX - Live Free or Die".